

THREE COUNT®

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Disasters Win WWF Titles From Money Inc.

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

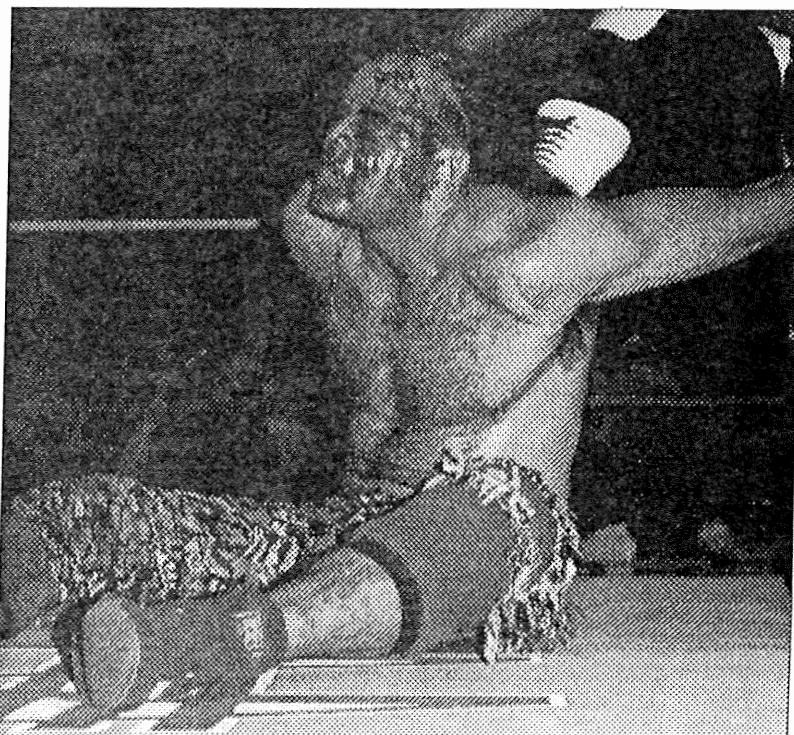
The Natural Disasters (John "Earthquake" Tenta and Fred "Tugboat" Ottman) defeated Money Inc. (Ted DiBiase and Irwin "Mike Rotunda" Shyster) for the World Wrestling Federation tag-team titles July 20 in Worcester, Mass., at a WWF television taping. The match ended when Shyster accidentally hit DiBiase with his briefcase, allowing Earthquake to score the pin.

The title change comes as a surprise to most, as **The Legion of Doom** was scheduled to wrestle (and defeat) Money Inc. for the WWF titles August 27 at the Summer Slam pay-per-view show. The Disasters are slated to face **The Beverly Brothers** at Slam. One of three things is likely to happen: 1) The Beverlies defeat The Disasters for the titles at Slam and feud with the L.O.D. this fall; 2) The card is changed, so the L.O.D. face The Disasters and The Beverlies face another team; 3) Things stay status quo, and the L.O.D. feuds with The Disasters for the belts this fall.

An L.O.D. vs. Disasters match-up is the most interesting tag-team feud the WWF can present at this point, although the two teams feuded in 1991. The Disasters are obviously not a success as babyfaces, and turning the L.O.D. heel at this point makes little sense. Surely, the title switch was a last-minute decision, and will fuel rumors DiBiase is contemplating a jump to World Championship Wrestling. The move is unlikely, although at some point possible because of DiBiase's relationship with WCW executive vice president Bill Watts.

Debuting at the television taping were **Conan** and **The Samoans** (Samu and Fatu) managed by **Afa the Samoan**. Conan (Carlos Espada) wrestled as **Rolampago** (Spanish for The Lightning Bolt) in a lucha-style match that will not air on television. Conan first tried out for the WWF 18 months ago, so the wait for his debut is nothing new. However, Conan is one of the few U.S.-based performers who does not need to work for either the WWF or WCW

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Conan (Carlos Espada) debuted as Rolampago in the World Wrestling Federation July 20 at a television taping in Worcester, Mass. Conan's match will not be aired on television because it was too lucha libre-style oriented. Photo: Dr. Mike Lano.

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Briefly

• World Championship Wrestling's first major stadium show in several years ended a sizeable failure July 18 at the Charlotte (N.C.) Baseball Stadium, with a crowd estimated between 2,200 and 4,000 fans. One figure quoted was a paid attendance of 400, but that seems awfully low (even for WCW). **Sting** defeated **Big Van Vader** via disqualification in the main event when Vader flipped Sting over the top rope. The match was described as above average.

Actually, the highlight of the match was going on backstage. WCW wrestlers are now forced to remain at the arena until the main event has ended. As WCW executive vice president **Bill Watts** told his wrestlers a few weeks back, "If you guys don't want to see a world title match, what makes you think the fans do?" Well, considering that the title match will likely be the same for the next few months (Sting vs. Vader), and most wrestlers are accustomed to leaving shortly after their own match ends, this rule is not very popular. So in Charlotte, approximately 12 cars were lined up near the exit. As soon as the Sting-Vader match ended, several wrestlers and members of the front-office staff jumped in their cars and left immediately. One source who went backstage after the card said the locker room area looked deserted.

One disturbing WCW trend that may continue in the Watts' era occurred during the **Rick and Scott Steiner** vs. **Steve Williams-Terry Gordy** match. For five weeks on television, the match was billed as a WCW tag-team title match. Rick Steiner pinned Gordy to win the match. The fans in Charlotte thought the titles had changed hands, as no announcement was made that this was a non-title match. Either the match was either non-title or WCW chose to ignore the outcome. In any case, it is a deceptive advertising policy that only infuriates fans.

• Does this phrase sound familiar for WCW -- a good idea gone awry? WCW is now issuing news releases after its pay-per-view shows highlighting what happened on its pay-per-view shows. The latest, dated July 13 and written by WCW publicist **Michael Weber**, gives an interesting summary of the Sting-Vader title switch at the Great American Bash. "Under the leadership of his manager **Harley Race**, Van Vader won the match by pinning an exhausted Sting in the center of the ring," Weber wrote.. "The match saw many highs and lows for both wrestlers, including the 250-pound Sting hoisting the 448-pound Van Vader to his shoulders in a potential submission hold." It would be nice to know just how Vader pinned Sting, wouldn't it? Also, se when is a Samoan drop a submission hold? The excerpt that appears here has been corrected grammatically, with such minor things as commas and hyphens added.

• A quick follow-up on the late **Stan Frazier** (**Uncle Elmer** in the World Wrestling Federation) from an article that appeared July 3 in *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, courtesy of **Three Count** reader **William Barnett**: Services are scheduled (July 4) for Stan "Tiny" Frazier, 54, a seven-foot, 485-pound professional wrestler for three decades who died (July 1) at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Biloxi, Miss. Memphis wrestler **Jerry Lawler** said, "He was a great inspiration to me when I first began wrestling." Frazier wrestled as **Plow Boy Frazier** in the Memphis area.

• **Dr. Mike Lano** gives word that **Gerhard Kaiser** has moved from California back to Indiana after not finding a

Sheet Spotlight

Here's a look at the top stories of some of the other wrestling newsletters, with subscription information:

• **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (July 20; Double issue): Analysis of WCW's Great American Bash; Word that Soviet amateur wrestler **David Gbedshvili** will debut October 4 for Pro Wrestling Fujiwara; Question of the Week results; Real names, ages and athletic backgrounds of current WWF and WCW rosters; Six pages of letters; Regional reports from around the world. Loaded. Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.

• **Jeff Mullins' Pro Wrestling Sushi** (August 1992): The last issue for this newsletter that took a look at the lighter side of wrestling; Too sad at its demise to offer a report.

• **Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch** (July 16): Analysis of the Bash, with fan and Torch columnist ratings; **Chris Zavisa's** mid-year awards for Japanese wrestling; Arena reports from independent and major promotions. Weekly; \$1.25 an issue (Free sample available). P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.

• **Gary Langevin's On the Mat** (July-August 1992): Focus on the New Hampshire-based Universal Championship Wrestling, with rundown of cards in May and June. Bi-monthly; \$2 an issue. 124 Maple Street, Newport, Va., 06855-1418.

• **Glen Radford's Piledriver** (May 1992): A British slant on the world of wrestling, which may become vital considering the WWF's plans of running regularly in Europe; Am uncertain of subscription rates, because I cannot translate pounds into dollars, but write Glen for more information. 73 Humber Road, Beeston, Notts., NG9 2ET.

THREE COUNT®

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wrestling-related job in the area. Kaiser, sidekick of Lano's *Canvas Cavity* television show, worked as a manager in California in 1970s, and also recently worked some shows in North California.

• More news from North California. **Jeff Mullins**, the San Jose-based editor of *Pro Wrestling Sushi*, is calling it quits with his July 1992 issue. Mullins cites the strain of producing a monthly sheet with his decision. *Sushi* was a truly funny sheet, and will be missed.

• Here is the official status of the National Wrestling Alliance board of directors. New Japan Pro Wrestling executive **Seiji Sakaguchi** is the acting president of the NWA, replacing **Kip Frey**, who resigned the position in May upon leaving WCW to become head of Turner Records. Thus, when Watts talked about the resignation of the NWA president on the Clash of Champions, he was taking a swipe at Frey. The current vice president is New Zealand-based promoter **Steve Rickard**.

• "**Texas Tornado**" **Kerry Von Erich** has been fired from the WWF. Give the promotion credit for sticking with Von Erich as long as they have. In the wake of their negative publicity last spring, the WWF could easily have booted Von Erich after his drug-related arrest in Richardson, Tx., but they gave him another chance.

• **Three Count** offers its best wishes to *Wrestling Insiders* host **Mike Tenay**, who was in an auto accident in Las Vegas on July 20. Tenay was not seriously injured, sustaining several bumps and bruises.

• The May 24 issue of *The Miami Herald* featured a wrestling column lambasting Watts for the return of blading in WCW, especially in light of the AIDS epidemic. The column generated a letter to WCW owner **Ted Turner** from **Geoff Cipes** of Coral Springs, of which I received a copy and felt extremely good about.

I have great respect for your many accomplishments and for your stand on most issues challenging the world today.

However, as the owner of WCW, you are to be considered accountable for the actions of the participants in the "show." These wrestlers cash their paychecks, generated by the TV and box office revenues. Not even considering the bloodletting's effect on the children who are fans, let me ask you, how much more money is actually generated by you allowing men to mutilate their bodies on purpose?

The most generous of interpretations is that you are not aware of all decisions made by the people in your companies. On the other hand, it could also be concluded that regardless of how much you are already worth, you would do "anything for money." That would be very sad considering who you are and what's possible for you to contribute to this planet.

I request that you take a stand. I request that you do it immediately and I suggest that you will never regret that you acted swiftly.

NOTICE

Three Count has added three members to its staff beginning with this issue -- **Bill Kunkel**, **Dr. Mike Lano** and **John Patton**.

Kunkel will be one of the columnists replacing **Paul Hanlin Jr.** at **Three Count**. Kunkel, 43, is co-host of the Las Vegas-based *Wrestle Talk* radio show with **Ric Carter**, and is known for his Potshot cartoons, which have appeared in several recent issues of **Three Count**. Kunkel will contribute columns and cartoons on a bi-weekly basis. **Three Count** wishes to thank Paul for his services rendered and the best of luck in the future.

Lano has joined **Three Count** as its official staff photographer. Lano is known in wrestling circles for his *Canvas Cavity* television show, a 30-minute show that airs on public access cable television in Alameda, Calif. Lano, a San Francisco-based dentist, airs tapes of matches, new and old, from around the world on the show, and has also interviewed several prominent wrestling personalities, such as **Terry Funk** and **David Shults**. Lano's outstanding photography is readily welcomed.

Patton, 20, will be assuming the role of **Three Count's** weekly television analyst in mid-August. Patton, a University of Florida student majoring in journalism, will assemble television reports from telecasts of shows from World Championship Wrestling, the World Wrestling Federation, United States Wrestling Alliance, Global Wrestling Federation, Smokey Mountain Wrestling and others. **Three Count** would greatly appreciate any help from readers who receive regional shows in assembling the report. Call John at 919-436-5126 for more details.

Three Count will be taking a hiatus until returning to Gainesville August 10, which is when Issue 43-44 will be mailed. That will be a double issue, featuring interviews with WCW executive vice president **Bill Watts**, "**Barney**" (the 15-year-old Long Island teenager who claimed to have been sodomized by suspended WWF ring announcer **Mel Phillips**), three lucha libre reports by **Carlos Rey**, **John Muse's** breakdown of the NWA championship tournament, Kunkel's first "Potshots" column, my Florida column, Patton's first television round-up, a report and review of the **Jeff Savage** article on the WWF currently appearing in the September issue of **Penthouse Magazine**, and an interesting legal letter from WWF attorney **Jerry McDevitt** and my response. **Three Count** will then be published again August 14, which is when we assume our permanent Friday publishing schedule because of educational and working commitments (i.e. football season) that hinder mid-week publication. That issue will feature the results of the NWA tournament, another lucha libre report by Carlos and the other news of the week.

Effective with Issue 45, the address of **Three Count** returns to P.O. Box 12795, Gainesville, Fla., 32604-0795. I must also ask Canadian and foreign subscribers to enclose an extra \$1 per four issues upon their next subscription. The price of postage has risen to \$.63 an issue to Canada, and higher elsewhere.

Three Count is looking for monthly columnists, and a bi-weekly columnist interested in writing about independent promotions. Applications can be mailed to **Three Count** at 8850 S.W. 19th Street, Miami, Fla., 33165, or contact **Carlos Rey** at 305-828-1106 for more information. **Three Count** will finally have a phone line established August 10. The number and calling hours will be listed in Issue 45

Van Dam Darn Good in IWF Shows

Despite being a long ways away, the Florida new continues to trickle in. Here's some of the latest:

- **Larry Malenko**, promoting under the Suncoast Pro Wrestling banner, postponed a scheduled benefit show July 19 in Zephyrhills because of a lack of ticket sales. The Lyons Club, for whom the card is being run, is now selling tickets for a mid-August date.

- Suncoast will be promoting two shows August 5 at the G.T. Bray Recreation Center as benefits for the Manatee

Alex Marvez



County Parks and Recreation department. Last year's benefit drew more than 1,200 children, so two shows of four matches each are being held to help diffuse the crowd. The wrestlers are working for free, so the list of those appearing is tentative. Scheduled so far are **Firecat (Brady Boone)**, **Full Force** (a.k.a. **Chubby M.C.**), **Kino McKenzie** and **El Loco** (promoter **Henry Raines'** heel persona).

- Word from Tampa says that International Championship Wrestling Association crowds at the city's weekly Sportatorium shows are declining. There are six shows in the Tampa area July 25. With so many promotions running regularly, it's hard to see how any can do well.

- The Tampa-based television station WTTA (Channel 38) has received numerous complaints about the production quality of **Larry Sharpe's World Wrestling Alliance** shows airing at 10 a.m. Saturdays. The group's second telecast featured the first half of the **Terry Funk** vs. **Bob Backlund** match held last year, which was below average quality video-wise but a good match. But the other footage aired with WWA talent reportedly looked like a bad dub of a home movie, despite the multi-camera set-up. Sharpe reportedly had another television taping slated in New Jersey that would feature better quality footage.

- **Eddy Mansfield** did conduct an International Wrestling Federation television taping July 4 at Universal Studios, but few details were available other than **Rob Van Dam**, **Blackjack Mulligan** and **Full Force** working. Van Dam is the group's top performer, leading all other performers in merchandising sales of his picture. His finisher (as described to me) is a moonsault off the second rope (thus, he doesn't risk disqualification under WCW by-laws). Van Dam also has the distinction of dating a dancer at Mons Venus, Tampa's most outra-

geous strip bar (several readers know what I'm talking about).

- Mulligan, who was supposed to move to Alabama as a used car salesman, is apparently staying in the Orlando area. He has taken over as teacher of Mansfield's wrestling school.

- Mansfield is reportedly furious that ABC's 20/20 is planning to re-telecast its piece on pro wrestling from 1985. The show was legendary because Mansfield said the business was pre-determined and revealed how blading was done, and ex-wrestler **David Shults** slapped reporter **John Stossel** when asked if wrestling was "fake." Because he is now a promoter, Mansfield apparently doesn't want people in the business reminded that he "exposed the business."

- IWF drew about 225 people for its July 17 show in Winter Haven, featuring **Al Hardeman** winning a 16-man battle royal in the main event. Hardeman is a local karate teacher who always main events and always draws fairly well, even though he is a lousy worker.

- Former IWF attorney **Chris Qualmann** was briefly on the July 20th telecast of the *Sally Jesse Rafael Show*. Qualmann, who specializes in media and entertainment law, is the attorney for **Kimberly Wilson**, who was kicked out of Orlando's Florida Mall for wearing too tight a mini-skirt. Qualmann was actually hired to handle all of Wilson's media appearances, not file suit against the mall. Qualmann was called upon to answer a legal question concerning women's rights to dress provocatively (not about what it's like working for Mansfield).

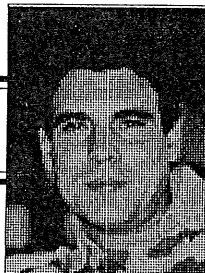
- Former IWF investor **Herb Hennessy** promoted a show under the North American Wrestling Federation July 22 at Orlando's Great American Flea Market, drawing about 50 people. Results saw **Rocking Hillbilly** defeat **Scott Casey** (a local guy, not the former Texas performer; Hillbilly was the most over on the card), **Death Row 3260** squashed **Terry Davis**, **Big Til-Mr. Terrible** (formerly **The Heartbreakers** of the IWF, but Mansfield copyrighted the name) went to a double disqualification with **Mark Starr-Lou Perez**, **Cliff Anderson** d. **Masked Superstar (Bob Cook)** via disqualification (best match on the card; Cook was the babyface) and **Union Jack (Rick Ryder)** d. **Rick Diamond**.

- A quick update on the status of **Penelope Paradise**, Suncoast's women's champion and one of the best female workers in the U.S. She worked as a manager on a fund-raising show July 15 at Miami's Temple Zion, but still has not found the reason for her kidney ailment that has kept her from the ring. Best wishes in recovery.

First U.S. AAA Telecast Successful

The July 12th Galavision show that took place in the Cal-State-Los Angeles gymnasium was a whopping success, drawing a \$119,000 gate when it was held July 4th. This could mean some great things for us fans of lucha in the United States. **Three Count** was lucky enough to have **Dr. Mike Lano** covering this story for us and several Japanese magazines, and some of his photos will appear in upcoming issues. I have heard that several people weren't too happy with this show be-

Carlos Rey



cause of the lighting and the way it came off. I'll save my opinion until the end of the report.

1) A midget match featuring technicos **Octagoncito-Angelito Azteca-Mascarita Sagrada** (technicos) defeating **Jerrito Estrada-Piratita Morgan-El Picudito** (rudos) in two falls. This match was not filmed in the U.S., but was inserted to fill television time. The rudos argued amongst themselves from the onset, which the technicos capitalized on to take the first fall. Sagrada did a *lance* (leap through the middle ropes outside the ring) onto Morgan, leaving the rudo unable to answer the count. Octagoncito pinned Picudito and Azteca pinned Estrada. The second fall consisted of Estrada missing his moves and hitting Morgan, which also led to a tecnico victory. Morgan was unable to answer the count after a lance by Azteca, the same with Picudito after an Octagoncito lance and Estrada accidentally hit Morgan with his lance, leaving the rudos unable to answer the count.

2) Another midget match, this one from Los Angeles. Another tecnico victory, featuring Azteca-Sagrada defeating Morgan-**Espectrito** in two-of-three falls. The rudos won a well-paced first fall when Espectrito made Sagrada submit and Morgan pinned Azteca. The technicos came back in the second fall when Sagrada pinned Morgan and Azteca pinned Espectrito. Azteca rendered Morgan unable to answer the count in the third fall after a lance, and Sagrada did a backward flip off the top rope onto Espectrito for the pin. The crowd really enjoyed this match.

3) The rudo team of **Mando Guerrero-Jerry Estrada-BullRaider** defeated technicos **Piloto Nuclear-Ultraman-Mercurio** in two-of-three falls. I was really looking forward to this match, as I'd never seen Raider and I really like Estrada and Guerrero. I had a feeling they

would make a great heel team, and I wasn't disappointed. First fall: Nuclear pinned Guerrero, Ultraman pinned Raider and Mercurio pinned Estrada. The second fall saw the rudos comeback, with Guerrero pinning Nuclear after a tremendous beating, Estrada made Mercurio submit and Raider pinned Ultraman. The third fall was even more brutal than the second fall. I would like to point out that the referee's name was **Platanito**, which means "small banana." I thought that was great. Raider pinned Ultraman, Estrada made Mercurio submit and Guerrero put Nuclear in a sleeper hold that finished the match. Estrada unmasked Mercurio after the match.

4) One of the pictures from this match is on the cover of this week's issue. **Conan**, seconded by **Tony Mondongo (James Aiono)** defeated **El Cobadre**, seconded by **Orco (Wally the Whale)**, in two-of-three falls in a hair vs. hair match. The first fall started quickly. Orco became involved, tripping Conan, which led to an early Cobadre pin. The second fall was great. At one point, it appeared Cobadre had grabbed Conan by the groin when the referee was turned toward Mondongo. Conan was able to make a comeback and won with a leap off the top rope. Conan had things going his way in the third fall, but Orco tripped him once again to reverse the momentum. Somebody threw a paper cup at Orco, he flipped them his middle finger, and the fans shower him in cups. At this point, Cobadre is choking Conan with a scarf in plain view of Platanito, but the small banana would not call for a disqualification. Conan juiced after Cobadre hit him with a chair, but all it took was a missed move by Cobadre to capitalize on the situation. Conan grabbed a chair to hit Cobadre, but AAA owner **Antonio Pena** (who was at ringside) prevented him from using it. Cobadre grabbed the chair and tried to hit Conan, but he ducked and Pena got clobbered. Pena landed on the floor and Cobadre landed on Pena (somewhere along the way, Conan knocked him down). In all the commotion, Conan low-blown Orco, threw Cobadre in the ring and pinned him. The crowd went wild. Cobadre put up a struggle, but lost his hair.

5) Another grudge match, this time between **CienCaras-Fishman-Espanto Jr.** (rudos) against **Perro Aguayo-El Hijo del Santo-El Misterioso** (technicos). There was tons of heat for this match. Fishman and Caras were fantastic with their heel tactics, Santo and Misterioso were great with their tecnico moves, and

(Continued on Page 10)

Carlos Rey has video tapes of Galavision shows available. Write to him at 996 West 45th Place, Hialeah FL 33012 for more information.

Watts' Moves Hurting New Japan

New Japan Pro Wrestling released the details of the National Wrestling Alliance singles tournament. The single-elimination tournament will span five shows and include wrestlers from both World Championship Wrestling and NJPW. WCW will be sending **Barry Windham**, **Rick Rude** (with **Madusa**), **Arn Anderson**, **Steve Austin**, **The Barbarian**, **Terry Taylor** and **Jim Neidhart**. NJPW's crew consists of **Keiji Muto**, **Masa Chono**, **Shinya Hashimoto**, **Hiroshi Hase**, **Kensuke Sasaki**, **Super**

John Muse

Strong Machine, **Scott Norton**, **Tony Halme** and **Bam Bam Bigalow**.

The first two shows, August 6 in Shizuoka and August 7 in Nagoya, will hold four first-round bouts each. The remainder of the tourney will take place at the Tokyo Sumo Hall August 10-12. The first-round matches were also announced, so let's put our booking hats on and see what we can come up with. The bouts are listed in order of pairings, so the winner of match one will face match two's winner, three vs. four, etc.

August 6 in Shizuoka:

1) **Scott Norton vs. Bam Bam Bigalow**: This match is a toss-up. Norton has been getting the bigger singles push over the past few months, while Bigalow has been working in tag-team matches, usually teaming with **Big Van Vader**. Bigalow is a better worker than Norton and should be the one to advance, but I don't think he will. **Winner: Scott Norton**.

2) **Tony Halme vs. Masa Chono**: Halme, a former boxer who sort-of resembles **Dolph Lundgren** with a beer gut, is one of NJPW's new monster heels. But Halme is very green, and the fans have been hard on him because NJPW is putting him over against more talented wrestlers. Chono, one of **The Three Musketeers** with Muto and Hashimoto, is extremely popular. If Halme defeats Chono, there could be a riot. Hopefully, NJPW won't take the chance. **Winner: Masa Chono**.

3) **Keiji Muto vs. Barry Windham**: Chalk this one up as bad timing. If this was 1989, this match could have been five stars. But it will still be a good match, and should be the best first-round match. **Winner: Keiji Muto**.

4) **Arn Anderson vs. Steve Austin**: A few questions. Who will be the heel? Who is the babyface? Will they fly to Japan on the same plane? Just kidding.

This bout could go either way. Austin has the edge because he is WCW's television champion. Anderson could advance because he has worked previously with Muto, the likely quarterfinal opponent for the winner of this match. **Winner: Arn Anderson**.

August 7 in Nagoya:

5) **Kensuke Sasaki vs. Jim Neidhart**: I'd have more to write about this match if I could only think of one good reason for Neidhart being in it. **Winner: Kensuke Sasaki**.

6) **Hiroshi Hase vs. Terry Taylor**: Taylor was a replacement for **Ron Simmons** (future champions don't do jobs). Hase is one of the best workers right now, and Taylor has always been underrated. But as usual, you know who looks at the lights (from the Northern Lights). **Winner: Hiroshi Hase**.

7) **Shinya Hashimoto vs. The Barbarian**: Another question. What did the Japanese do to **Bill Watts** to make him send The Barbarian in for this tournament? Don't expect much out of this bout. **Winner: John Belushi, err, Shinya Hashimoto**.

8) **Rick Rude vs. Super Strong Machine**: This match should be solid, but don't expect anything great. **Winner: Rick Rude**.

Although the first round appears somewhat uneventful, the rest of the tournament has more to offer. In the next column, we'll see how the tournament should play out and talk about how Watts may influence the finals.

• **P-P-Pro Wrestling Ne-w-w-w-s**: Super World Sports, the World Wrestling Federation's partner in Japan, has more or less folded, with the promotion splitting into two groups. **Genichiro Tenryu's** group, WAR, is already running shows, while **George Takano's** group, NOW, is rumored to be starting in August. With the talent roster split, the future is dim for both groups.

• WCW has been giving New Japan and its booker, **Riki Choshu**, some anxious moments lately. It all started at the NJPW Budokan Hall show on June 26 when **Rick and Scott Steiner** defeated **Vader and Bigalow** to win the IWGP tag-team titles (Note: **Jushin Lyger** dropped the IWGP strap to **Samurai (Osamu Matsuda)** on the same show). Shortly thereafter, **Terry Gordy** and **Steve Williams** defeated The Steiners for the WCW tag-team titles (the IWGP straps were not at stake). Doc and Gordy then went on to win the NWA tag-team tournament. The only problem is that Gordy and Williams work for NJPW's rival, All Japan Pro Wrestling. Message to the Big Cowboy: You're supposed to help your partners, (Continued on Page 9)



Spotlight on: Cheryl Vasquez

More than six months ago, former World Wrestling Federation champion Billy Graham called for a boycott of the promotion because of the way it had handled allegations of anabolic steroid and sexual abuse by its employees. No one picked up Graham's crusade, although a case could be made that a drop of 37 percent in television audience and abysmal house show attendance is protest enough. However, a protest was finally launched July 2nd at a WWF show in Poughkeepsie, NY. Cheryl Vasquez, 45, led a group of five protestors outside a card held at the Westchester County Civic Center calling for a boycott of the WWF because of the sex abuse allegations. The following conversation took place July 12 on Ric Carter's and Bill Kunkel's Wrestle Talk radio show in Las Vegas.

BK: When this whole ring boy sex scandal broke, the thing that amazed me was the total blasé attitude that most WWF fans seemed to have toward this thing. It was just, I think, all kind of jumbled together with steroids ... There was no negative response other than obviously people staying home, which the WWF caused on their own. This really is the first protest we've seen.

RC: Let's go ahead and bring Cheryl on. Cheryl, are you there?

CV: Yeah, hi. I'm here.

RC: How did this whole protest get started?

CV: Well, actually ... You can't hate anything until you've loved it first, and I guess you could say we were the WWF's biggest fans years ago. But over the years, we've become so offended and outraged. You know, with a lot of different issues. He brought down minorities and made fun of homosexuals, and it even affected my own children. I have three sons. The oldest is 25, and I even suspected maybe he was doing steroids because he's got a big beautiful body that all of my boys have been trying to get for years.

I almost discredit myself here, because I'm part of their problem I guess, because I loved wrestling and my mentality - "Look at those muscles, look at those muscles." I feel I've spent so much money over the years on the WWF. I just didn't have a right to complain about it anymore if I didn't do something about it when I got my chance. So I did, and although the protest was small, the end result was beyond our farthest dreams.

RC: How many individuals were involved in the protest?

CV: There were just five. Three started out. We had gotten permission from the City of Poughkeepsie. They had given us our guidelines and told us what we could do and what we couldn't do. We followed them to the letter. It was very peaceful. We had eight or 10 different signs relating to the scandals. One that said, "Where's Mel, Terry and Pat if they are not guilty?" One said, "Sex, drugs, lies, scandals and child abuse." I happen to personally know something about that or I wouldn't have put that in.

BK: Cheryl, you knew quite a few of the ring boys in the upstate New York area.

CV: Yes, I did.

BK: So this was more of a personal issue to you.

CV: It was very personal to me, and I don't really like to talk about it because I've turned everything over to the authorities that are investigating this, and I feel the kids that I knew are victims. I called just the other day to one of them to ask him why he didn't come to our protest, because he said he might do it. He told me he may get his ring job back, because he had been in touch with (suspended WWF announcer and ring crew chief) **Mel Phillip** himself, and he told me he was not allowed to talk to me anymore. I said what do you mean you

can't talk to me? He told me he wished he could tell me everything, but he couldn't. He seemed to be under terrible pressure. I asked him different questions and different names, and he informed me he was in touch with (WWF attorney) **Jerry McDevitt** from Pittsburgh that very morning. This was Friday, just last Friday, and he couldn't talk to me anymore about it. But I think the damage he said has already been done. It has already been handed over to the authorities.

RC: Was this individual a minor?

CV: He was 14 years old when we met him.

RC: But I mean now, in this conversation you had with him last week.

CV: He's 20 or 21 now.

RC: Ok, but you taped a conversation with him?

CV: Well...

RC: Or, you had a conversation with him?

CV: I had a conversation with him.

BK: What kind of reaction did you get from the WWF people, wrestlers, fans, in general to the protest?

CV: Well, at first, you know, I was a little leery. A lot of mothers had tickets in their hands or they were going to buy tickets there. It was, like, conscious check time for these mothers. We weren't trying to prevent anyone from going in. I mean, those were part of our guidelines. We had a very big effect. One mother stands out in particular. She had two sons with her, and they also had friends with them. She came up to us and told us she had heard about all these alleged scandals, but the kids didn't see or didn't know anything about them. The only thing they knew about was **Hulk Hogan** and that he had lied on *The Arsenio Hall Show*. She just couldn't believe that one business alone could harbor so many sick employees. She said if this had been a major corporation here in Dutchess County that the media would have just covered it all over the place. But she really wasn't even aware of the damaging images this new character **Razor Ramone** has. She doesn't watch *The Superstars* and *Wrestling Challenge* shows. She admitted that, you know, the kids watch it. It's like a baby-sitter, the television. But she did vow to watch it that weekend, which was an episode when (Ramone) took fruit and told kids they didn't need school or books to be like him, that they should take what they want. She said it's going to be a major priority this summer to de-program her kids. Being that the summer was here, the tube wasn't on that much anyway. Lots of parents asked for our numbers and everything. In fact, we would have been at the Meadowlands last night, and this is a fact, but you have to notify the police ahead of time. We had such a huge reaction to this that I ... We're new at this, and I don't know how to go about getting so many people together to do this. We're not through yet. We've only just begun.

The kids (Editor's note: I believe Vasquez is referring to former members of the WWF ring crew in the Poughkeepsie

area) thought it would be great fun to be in a protest. All of them had something, a major gripe about one thing or another, about the WWF. They even said they would go to Stamford, Conn. The wrestlers were another story. I don't know if I'm even allowed to say any names. Should I say a name?

RC: Sure, go ahead.

CV: Well, I don't know which one he was, but **The Nasty Boys** came and saw us carrying our signs, and we were on the sidewalk where we were supposed to be moving constantly. They tried to run us over. They put their accelerators to the gas and laughed. They yelled obscenities at us. I'm a mother, Ok, and this isn't right to do. There were crowds of kids with their parents, the security was there. (**Jerry Saganovich**) was so disgusting and abusive verbally, a lot of the parents just shook their heads and said, "Gee, I wish the kids wouldn't have seen this, but I guess it's good that they did." And they shook their heads and supported us after this scene. There was another wrestler there -- very, very, very well known one -- and he was very sympathetic and very supportive. In fact, he even tried to quiet down (**Saganovich**). And **Skinner**, the **Swamp Thing**.

RC: **Steve Keirn**, yeah?

CV: Yeah. He told them that we weren't being abusive, we were no threat to them, we had our civil rights, too, and they should be quiet. He actually tried to quiet them down, and he's a very well-known wrestler. But (**Saganovich**) was absolutely horrible. There was also a familiar ring-rat girl that I had known. She pulled right up on the sidewalk with her **Mercury Sable** and tried to back it over on me. And she goes through the back door, too, with several other dear friends of **Vince McMahon's** that allegedly work for them.

AM: I was wondering if you're going to be at Long Island August 1 at the Nassau County Coliseum. The reason being that is the WWF's hottest spot in the country right now.

CV: Alex, that's also a little bit difficult because I've never been down there myself. We'd have to figure out how to get us all down there. It's not just me anymore, and I urge anyone that is within listening distance, you parents out there, unite. We have a little, like, **Ghostbusters** logo with a red circle and the WWF in the middle. Just wear that, and you can get there on your own. I'm really not familiar with that area, but I think that for the long run, **Vince McMahon** is recycling his trash and taking it to England. We're really going to go for him when he comes back to the States. It may take a little longer, because now there are a lot of people involved. I just don't know how to do this. I'm only one person.

RC: I understand the police came out at some point?

CV: They came out about four times. The (WWF) official and ... I don't know who he was, and I usually know all of them. A short, heavy-set man with black hair came out of a big white stretch limousine and said, "Get them the hell out of here." (WWF road agent) **Tony Garea** was standing there. The police had come by four times, and this (police) official even said the Civic Center owns the sidewalk, which was the only place where we were allowed to protest. That is where all the wrestlers park. Four times the police came, and they were just checking to make sure nobody was getting violent with us. Being that we had permission, (the officers) told (the WWF) they were sorry, but there was nothing they could do about it, because they had a right to be there. They did everything in their power to get rid of us, including telling us they owned the

sidewalk. They wanted to see our permit. We did not need a permit because there weren't that many people there.

The security supported us, though. This is supposed to be a privately owned civic center by Poughkeepsie business men. They claim they're a non-profit organization. Also, one supporter couldn't come to the protest, but did call our local newspaper here and told them about it. They said, "Ah, well, gee, you know, we're in a hurry because it's a holiday weekend." Now, mind you, this was July 2nd. But they wanted to get out early. They're only half a block down the road from the Civic Center, but they didn't want to cover it. I've been in touch with them to see if they would do any stories on these alleged scandals, but, you know, it's a junk sport. They have never done anything about it.

RC: I understand the WWF had not been in Poughkeepsie in a year before this show.

CV: About a year, yeah. There was a little independent card slated with **Abdullah the Butcher** and **The Sheik**, and, mysteriously, it was cancelled. Less than two weeks later, it was announced the WWF was coming in. They hadn't been here for several years. They used to do television tapings there.

BK: Cheryl, when did you find out about these things that were going wrong in the World Wrestling Federation? Was it through newsletters, or through the media, or was it something that you had a hunch about a long time ago?

CV: Well, I had a hunch about it. I got involved in it because there were several young ring boys whom we befriended, because I would take a lot of kids to the back where the wrestlers used to come in. We have a scrapbook about a foot high filled with pictures and autographs. Anyway, I met these ring boys and they came from, I guess you could say dysfunctional families. They would ride their bikes there, and I always had a great big old car, so they would ask me, "Oh, Mrs. V, can we put our bike in the trunk of your car?" And I'd say sure, so I'd open up the trunk and then I'd have to wait for them to get the rings down so they could get their bikes back.

And every single time, we knew the restaurants that the wrestlers would go to afterwards. **Vince McMahon** himself would go to the **Sea Crest Diner** down in **Wappinger Falls**, and we'd always go there and have a hamburger and a soda with the kids, hoping that a wrestler would pass by and say something nice to them. All the time, **Mel Phillips** was there with the ring boys. I'd bump into them many times during my travels shopping, and I'd always ask them, "Gee, why are you always with **Mel Phillips**?" "Oh, well, we stay at the so-and-so motel here, you know, on **Route 9** and this and that." And I'd say, "But why? You live in Poughkeepsie?" "Mel treats us good. Mel's good to us." They were kind of over-protective about him, but over the past six months, I've learned a lot of things that weren't right. When I suspected something was going on with the boys, I had told some. They say they're employees of **Vince McMahon**. I don't know if they're scouts or what, but I do have proof that they work for him in a small capacity. They used to come over here over many cups of tea and tell me all these things that were going on. They had free run of what used to be in **Greenwich, Conn.**, and now is in **Stamford**. They told me about these blow-up dolls that were in the WWF offices in the closet. They nick-named it "**Big John**," and it had a big sex organ. And **Bobby Heenan** and **Gorilla Monsoon** often joked about it. They told me many, many, many stories. I could write a book myself.

Reader Results

Orndorff Turns on Orton in UWF

Super correspondent **Danny Parris** reports on four show he recently attended:

- National Championship Wrestling in Spartanburg, S.C., drew 67 fans for a June 25 show at the Indian Bingo Parlor. Results saw **Ricky Blue-Plowboy Thompson-Sledgehammer Dave Melton** defeat **TommyBonds-MikeOutlaw-TonyStarblaster** in 18:00 when Starblaster was pinned; **Billy Eagle** d. **Johnny Kidd** in 9:13; **Rattlesnake Westbrook** and **Buthcer Blackwell** fought to a double disqualification in a loser-eats-dog-food match. Starblaster's rough evening continued when, as referee, he was beaten up by both wrestlers and fed the dog food; **Nick O'Neil** d. **The Warlock** in 5:30; NCW tag-team champions **Wahoo McDaniel-Jay Eagle** d. **Brodie Chase-Mike Hart** by DQ in 21:11.

- **Rusty Lane's** Continental Wrestling Federation drew 79 fans in Lancaster, S.C., for a July 3 show. Results saw **Russian Assassin (Hunter Thompson)** d. **Kevin Kirby**; **Darrell Duggan** d. **Southern Boy**; **Lane-Ron Ross** d. **Jammin' Jake-Iceman Kenny B.** (the worst bout Danny has ever seen); **Buddy Shane** d. **Jimmy Valentine**; **The Ring Warriors** won the CWF tag-team titles in a two-of-three fall match against champions **Rick** and **Nick O'Neil**.

- **Herb Abrams' Universal Wrestling Federation** drew 912 fans for a television taping at the Memorial Auditorium in Spartanburg. Results: **Sonny Beach-Steve Ray** d. **Steve Colt-Johnny Kidd**; **Ivan Koloff** d. **Jake Steele**; **Bob Orton Jr.** (billed as Southern States champion) d. **Midnight Star**; **Helmet Hessler** d. **Jeff Husker**; **Dave Perry** d. **Viper No. 2 (David Isley)**; **Paul Orndorff** d. **Tommy Angel**; **Death Row 3260** d. **Midnight Star**; **Barry Horowitz** d. **Angel**; **Pez Whatley** d. **The Marauder**; **Nightstalker** d. **Kidd**; **Jimmy Valiant** d. **Viper No. 2**; **Orndorff** d. **Colt**; **Beach-Ray** d. **Marauder-Viper No. 2**; **Nightstalker** d. **Jake Steele**; **Orton** d. **Hessler**; **Valiant** d. **Koloff** via DQ; **Orndorff** d. **Orton** to win the Southern States title in 19:34 by turning heel in this bayface vs. babyface confrontation; **Beach** d. **Horowitz**; **Whatley-Vladimir Koloff** fought to a double countout; **Death Row 3260** d. **Nightstalker** via DQ; **Ray** d. **Hessler** via DQ. The card lasted more than four hours. The UWF is slated for an August 21 return.

- The World Wrestling Federation drew about 2,000 fans July 11 for a show at the Charlotte Coliseum. Results saw **Jim Powers** d. **The Brooklyn Brawler**; **Tatanka** d. **Rick Martel**; **Nasty Boys** d. **Owen Hart-Koko B. Ware**; **Randy Savage** d. **Ric Flair** via disqualification. Flair used a foreign object for the pinfall and hid

it under his arm, but the object fell out when his hand was raised and **Savage** was awarded the match. **Savage** worked as a heel, and **Flair**, in his hometown, worked as a babyface and was overwhelmingly cheered; **Natural Disasters** d. **Money Inc.** via countout; **Davey Boy Smith** d. **Repo Man**; **Undertaker** d. **Berserker**. A very subpar show, with 'Taker's match the best.

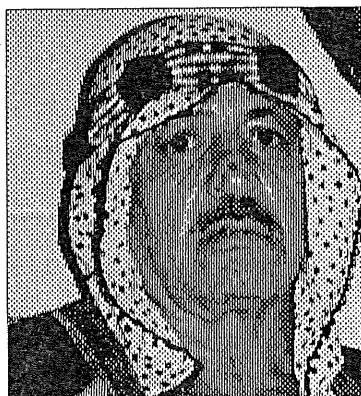
Japanese Musings

(Continued from Page 7)

not hurt them.

- There are two things Detroit is known for: automobiles and **The Original Sheik (Ed Farhat)**. In fact, historians are still debating which came first. Anyway, **The Sheik** defeated **Atsushi Onita** to win the WWA World Martial Arts title on June 25 in Sapporo at the age of 67. Prior to the match, **Tiger Jeet Singh** attacked and bloodied Onita. A few days later, Singh attacked Onita twice on the same day. The first time

was after a match, the second was in Onita's dressing room. This was done to set up a barbed wire jungle match (a match literally held on an island, with no fans and only media watching), where Singh defeated a bloody Onita using the cobra claw. Singh is being put over so strongly in hopes of drawing 35,000 fans to FMW's Kawasaki



The Original Sheik (Ed Farhat) became the WWA Martial Arts champion June 25 at the age of 67. Photo: Dr. Mike Lano.

Baseball Stadium for a Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling card on September 19. Singh vs. Onita is the scheduled main event.

- In All Japan news, **Jumbo Tsuruta** is out of action with a knee injury. Hopefully, Jumbo will be able to return in time for the August tour and the Budokan Hall show on August 22. No matches have been announced, but I wonder if Tsuruta does wrestle, will it be in a singles match? If so, could someone work over Jumbo's knee? Could there be an upset looming for **Mitsuhara Misawa** or **Toshiaki Kawada**?

Samoans, Conan Debut in WWF

(Continued from Page 1)

to make a living. Conan is a major draw for the Mexican-based AAA both in Los Angeles and Mexico. **Bob Backlund** was at the taping, but did not wrestle.

The WWF also attempted to add some intrigue to its Slam main event of **Randy Savage vs. The Ultimate Warrior** for the WWF title. In an interview with **Ric Flair** and "**Mr. Perfect**" **Curt Hennig**, Hennig said he would be in the corner of whichever wrestler paid him the most money -- Savage or Warrior. The logic is fans will want to buy the show to see if either Savage or Warrior turns heel. A **Bret Hart vs. Papa Shongo** feud also appears in the works.

Conan Saves Technicos in AAA

(Continued from Page 5)

Aguayo was his usual self. In the first fall, Misterioso made Espanto submit, Santo pinned Fishman and Aguayo chased Caras away from the ring. Second fall: Espanto pinned Santo, and Aguayo and Misterioso were rendered unable to answer the count. Misterioso was carried back to the dressing room at the beginning of the third fall, leaving Aguayo and Santo to fend for themselves. But just when it appeared the technicos were done for, Conan made an appearance at the back of the arena. It was said he could not interfere, but after the rudos refused to pin the beaten technicos, Conan interfered to make the save as the crowd went berserk. The rudos won via disqualification, though.

I thought the card was great, although the lighting was lousy and a lot of things needed improvement. But the show was great and the live crowd loved it, and it's not every day you get that in the U.S.

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